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# WILDLIFE



A MEASURE  
OF OUR  
ENVIRONMENT  
HOW EXTENSION SERVES



EXTENSION SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

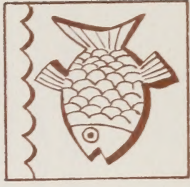
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## ABOUT EXTENSION WILDLIFE PROGRAMS . . .

By J. David Almand, Wildlife Management

The Cooperative Extension Service is a unique three-way partnership of your county government, state land-grant university, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It involves federal, state, and county funds and personnel. Its "grass-roots" programs apply findings from scientific research to help people solve problems. Practically every American benefits.

Education about wildlife has been an important part of Extension work for three decades, and the commitment to wildlife-related programs is increasing as the public becomes more interested and concerned.



Citizens and legislators are seeing that wildlife is a vital component of the total ecological system — that how well it thrives reflects the quality of our environment.

Wildlife is receiving increasing consideration in land use planning and zoning, and it is important to rural economic development as landowners supplement income through fish and wildlife enterprises.

Following are some of the ways that Extension wildlife programs may serve you, your group, or association.





FISH POND MANAGEMENT



WILDLIFE HABITAT





**Extension WILDLIFE PROGRAMS can help you with. . .**

**WILDLIFE HABITAT** — Extension works with farmers, landowners, sportsmen's groups, garden clubs, youth groups and others to develop and improve food and cover for wildlife. This involves wildlife habitat, demonstrations, farm visits and consultations with landowners and others to preserve or properly manage woodland, farmland, and other areas for wildlife. It may also include active participation in government planning to insure that wildlife receives attention in programs affecting land use.

**LANDOWNER — SPORTSMAN RELATIONS** — Both landowners and sportsmen are much concerned about wildlife and our environment. Extension wildlife specialists conduct educational programs and otherwise work with farmers, sportsmen's clubs, wildlife federations, and civic and farm groups to

increase the cooperation and understanding between those who produce the wildlife and those who enjoy it on private lands.

Often, the wildlife specialist and the local county agent play an important role in helping organize new conservation groups.

**FEE HUNTING** — Work with farmers on developing fee hunting preserves is a growing Extension activity. About 80 percent of the game taken by hunters is on private lands. Most farmers are concerned about wildlife, but they may question whether they can afford to use their cash and land to produce it in abundance. They can afford to devote more of their time and capital to providing better conditions for wildlife if sportsmen and others who enjoy wildlife share the expense through access or other fees to the landowner.

**FISH POND MANAGEMENT** — Landowners receive information on the proper management of fish ponds, aquatic weed control, and the business management procedures of fee fishing enterprises.

**PESTICIDES** — To insure that agricultural programs involving pesticides are used in a manner safe for fish and wildlife.

**FUR FARMING** — Production and marketing information is provided to fur farmers in some states. In Michigan, a full-time fur farming specialist is employed to work with the fur farming industry.

**CONTROLLING DAMAGE** by wildlife — Extension cooperates with pest control operators, state agriculture and conservation departments, and others in conducting educational programs to reduce losses from rats, blackbirds, gophers, or other depredating wildlife.

**GAME BIRDS** — Agents may help game bird producers set up commercial production and shooting preserves. Such programs involve poultry specialists, veterinarians, and other Extension staff.

**FISH FARMING** — Advice is given "fish farmers" on production, harvesting, processing, and marketing of fish crops. Raising catfish, trout, and other fish and shellfish species is a growing U.S. enterprise.

**YOUTH PROGRAMS** — Working with youth, especially 4-H Club members, creates practical learning experiences concerning fish and wildlife and the environment. Now 47 states have 4-H wildlife projects, with nearly 110,000 boys and girls enrolled.





FUR FARMING



WILDLIFE STUDY TOUR

**MARINE FISHERIES** — Extension's educational work with commercial fishermen, processors, and others helps increase. . .

- Job opportunities
- Efficiency of fishing and processing
- Public understanding of marine resources
- Variety of inexpensive quality protein for consumers.

**FISH BAIT PRODUCTION** — Commercial and hobby producers of fish bait benefit from the Extension wildlife program. Production of worms, crickets, and minnows is big business in some areas.

## WHO HELPS YOU

Your county agent is the local representative of the Extension Service. See him first. He is well informed, and can also draw on the expertise of your land-grant university and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nationwide, there are some 3,600 state and area Extension specialists. Besides professionals in fish, wildlife and marine

resources, they include agronomists, animal scientists, veterinarians, foresters, soil and water conservationists, and others in fields related to wildlife management.

Wildlife specialists now serve on Extension staffs in about half the states. They work cooperatively with other agencies and groups, such as —

State fish and game agencies  
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife  
National Science Foundation, Office of Sea Grant Programs  
State Wildlife Federations  
State Departments of Agriculture  
Other agencies of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior  
Professional societies  
Commercial fishermen  
Pest control operators  
Fish farming associations  
Garden clubs  
Environmental action groups